

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 ARAE-00 SSO-00 PM-04 SP-02

NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-07 INRE-00 PRS-01 L-03 DHA-02

SNM-02 IO-13 /065 W

-----101639Z 116853 /41

O 101450Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1421

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 4247

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR; CO, SNAR, CASC

SUBJECT: TODMAN VISIT: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT LOPEZ

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN HAD ONE AND ONE-HALF HOUR MEETING WITH PRESIDENT LOPEZ MORNING MAY 9. WHICH WAS CORDIAL AND CONSTRUCTIVE.

2. TODMAN REVIEWED FOR LOPEZ THE CONCEPTS GOVERNING THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S APPROACH TO LATIN AMERICA, UNDERLINING THE IMPORTANT ROLE L.A. CAN PLAY IN THE DEVELOPING NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. LOPEZ REITERATED COLOMBIA'S INTEREST IN A SPECIAL TRADE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US (THE LIEVANO PLAN) SIMILAR TO THE LOME AGREEMENT. TODMAN ASSURED LOPEZ THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WAS VERY MUCH AWARE OF COLOMBIA'S INTERESTS AND EXPLAINED THAT RATHER THAN TRYING TO SET UP NEW REGIONAL TRADING SYSTEMS, WE WERE ENDEAVORING TO OPEN EXISTING MARKET SYSTEMS TO MORE TRADING NATIONS, INCLUDING COLOMBIA. LOPEZ EXPRESSED APPROVAL OF THIS APPROACH AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE LIEVANO PLAN. TODMAN ALSO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE IMPACT OF THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED LONDON SUMMIT CONFERENCE ON THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATION, AND ON DEVELOPING NATIONS PARTICULARLY. HE REITERATED THE ADMINISTRATION'S COMMITMENT TO REDUCE ECONOMIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL INEQUALITIES IN THE WORLD.

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3. FOLLOWING TODMAN'S EXPOSITION OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S APPROACH TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE, LOPEZ OBSERVED THAT COLOMBIA'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD WAS VIRTUALLY UNEQUALED. HE CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, AGAINST TAKING ACTIONS WHICH RAN THE RISK OF BEING INTERPRETED AS INTERVENTION. TODMAN EMPHASIZED THE DEPTH OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S COMMITMENT ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS

ISSUE AND ARGUED THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR A NATION LIKE THE US TO STAND IDLY BY WHEN HUMAN BEINGS WERE BEING TORTURED AND ABUSED. LOPEZ REMAINED SKEPTICAL HOWEVER AND INDICATED HE THOUGHT THAT IT MIGHT BE BETTER FOR THE US TO TAKE A MORE PRAGMATIC ATTITUDE TOWARDS SUCH HAPPENINGS RATHER THAN TRYING TO ACT LIKE AN INTERNATIONAL POLICEMAN. HE AGREED WITH TODMAN, THOUGH, ON THE UTILITY OF PURSUING A MULTILATERAL APPROACH TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM, PARTICULARLY ALONG THE LINES OF THE COSTA RICAN INITIATIVE.

4. TOEMAN CITED THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S CONTINUING CONCERN ABOUT INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AND SAID THAT MS. FALCO, SECRETARY VANCE'S SPECIAL ASSISTANT, HOPED TO MAKE A VISIT TO COLOMBIA SOON TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER IN GREATER DEPTH. THE PRESIDENT INDICATED THAT HE WOULD DESIGNATE A HIGH-RANKING OFFICIAL TO MEET WITH MS. FALCO ON THIS SUBJECT. HE ALSO REFERRED TO THE PROTRACTED NEGOTIATIONS OVER THE BILATERAL HELICOPTER AGREEMENT. HE DID NOT SIGNAL ANY CHANGE IN THE GOC POSITION ON THIS ISSUE, BUT IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT HE WAS KEEPING PERSONALLY INFORMED ABOUT THE NEGOTIATIONS AND FELT THEY SHOULD BE WOUND UP SOON.

5. ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN RAISED THE PROBLEM OF AMERICANS IMPRISONED IN COLOMBIA FOR LONG PERIODS WITHOUT BEING BROUGHT TO TRIAL, CITING THE THELEN CASE IN PARTICULAR. LOPEZ SAID HE WAS AWARE OF THE STRONG INTEREST IN THIS MATTER ON THE PART OF THE CONGRESS AS WELL AS THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND SAID THAT HE HAD TOLD THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE TO LOOK INTO IT. HE COMMENTED THAT THE BEST SOLUTION MIGHT BE SIMPLY TO CONFIDENTIAL

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EXPULSE AMERICAN TRAFFICKERS. HE CLAIMED THAT THIS WAS WHAT THE USG DID WITH COLOMBIAN TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED IN THE US AND HE OBSERVED SARDONICALLY THAT IT WOULD SAVE GOC MONEY TO DO THE SAME.

6. RAISING THE QUESTION OF THE QUITA SUENO TREATY, PRESIDENT LOPEZ EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE CONGRESS WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO RATIFY THE TREATY NOW THAT PAT HOLO AND THE FORMER US AMBASSADOR TO NICARAGUA HAD LEFT THEIR POSTS. LOPEZ ATTRIBUTED THE DELAY IN RATIFICATION TO THE INFLUENCE OF THESE TWO.  
DREXLER

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